

## **Health Insurance: A key ingredient to school success**

The school year means getting a lot of things in order – schedules, supplies, appointments, and activities. Don't forget putting one of the most important things on the list – health insurance. Students are better able to excel when they have the health care services they need so now is a great time to visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) and learn about the Health Insurance Marketplace.

### **Get ready now**

You can create an account right now as the first step to getting ready to fill out an application and enroll in a plan. It's as easy as putting in a few key pieces of information like your name and email address. Then, starting October 1, 2013, you can fill out an application, look at all your plan options, and enroll in a plan. Coverage begins as soon as January 1, 2014.

If you know children that need health insurance now and can't wait for the Marketplace, you can apply for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) at any time.

Medicaid and CHIP offer free or low-cost health insurance that covers regular check-ups, immunizations, doctor and dental visits, hospital care, mental health services, prescriptions and more. If you want to learn more about these options, go to [InsureKidsNow.gov](http://InsureKidsNow.gov) or call 1-877-KIDS-NOW.

### **Need more information?**

As you explore your options in the Marketplace, you may want to get some help. You can participate in an online web chat on the website; or call the Health Insurance Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596, to speak with a trained customer service representative; and there will be people in your local communities who can give you personal help with your choices.

Visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) now to get all the information you need about the Marketplace and create an account. Come back October 1, fill out an application and enroll. Then, cross it off your back to school list.